



4. FACILITIES

4-1 Overview

Fort Wainwright has 13,500 acres of built-up area, including the small arms complex (Johnston, 1988). The Main Post has 771 buildings with a total of 8,850,876 square feet (Hill, undated). Fort Wainwright contains 818,710 acres of maneuver land and 65,964 acres of impact areas (Johnston, 1988). The installation has four major training facilities: the Alaska Range Complex, close-in training areas, YTA, and TFTA (Figures 2-1, 3-2a, and 4-1).

4-1a Small Arms and Crew Served Weapons Ranges

Table B-2, of USARAK Regulation 350-2, lists Fort Wainwright small arms and crew served ranges. The post has 14 firing ranges and two demolition ranges,

one at the Alaska Range Complex and one on YTA, which are similar to impact areas. Table B-2 also includes 26 mortar and artillery firing points (listed as a single range), which use Alpha Impact Area at TFTA and Stuart Creek Impact Area on YTA.

4-1b Training Facilities

Table C-2, of USARAK Regulation 350-2, lists Fort Wainwright training facilities where live fire is not practiced. These facilities include four drop zones (one with a landing strip), rappel tower, obstacle course, NBC (Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical) facility, trench system, and a Military Operations in Urban Training (MOUT) site. Husky Drop Zone and Clear Creek Assault Strip support strategic airborne operations. The Clear Creek Assault Strip can support battalion-sized operations.

Live-fire training facilities include:

- ▶ *Record Range* used for M-16 qualification;
- ▶ *Combat Pistol Range* with seven lanes for all-caliber pistols with computer-scored Remote Electronic Target Sensing (RETS) targets at 13, 17, 19, 23, 27, and 31 meters;
- ▶ *Multi-purpose Machine Gun Range* with six lanes for Transition and Field Fire with computer-scored RETS targets from 100 to 1000 meters;
- ▶ *Known Distance Range* with 30 firing and zeroing points available at 25, 100/200, 300/400, and 500/600 meters; and 55 firing points on a 1000-inch zero range;
- ▶ *Hand Grenade (Familiarization) Range* with an unprotected ready line and two throwing bays;
- ▶ *Hand Grenade (Qualification) Range* with distance, accuracy, assault, and qualification courses;
- ▶ *40mm Grenade Range* with four firing points and four zero points available for practice and high explosives;
- ▶ *AT4/LAW/Viper Range* consisting of three firing points with hard targets, ranging from 75 to 350 meters, and one moving target;
- ▶ *MK-19 Range* with two lanes of stationary targets at 400-1500 meters, each lane with two dismounted and one mounted firing position;
- ▶ *SABOT Range* for M31 Artillery Subcaliber Training, SABOT, and M880 Training Practice; and
- ▶ *Birch Hill Biathlon Range* is a 10-point stationary target range equipped with a warm-up building for training in arctic combat.

In 1996, the M-16 Qualification Range was converted to a RETS range and expanded from 10 to 16 firing lanes. This was the last major range construction project completed on Fort Wainwright. Other significant training facilities include the Russian Trench System for small unit tactical trench system

live-fire exercises, numerous mortar and artillery firing points, and an aerial gunnery range.

4-2 Transportation System

Fairbanks is a transportation center for much of central, northern, and northwestern Alaska. There are 841 miles of paved highways and over 1,000 miles of unpaved highways in and around Fairbanks. The George Parks, Steese, and Richardson highways transect the area. The Richardson Highway links Fort Richardson to Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely, and connects Alaska with the Canadian road system via the Alcan Highway.

The Alaska Railroad provides rail service to Fort Wainwright. Alaska Railroad's main line passes through the central cantonment area, with spur tracks serving the central heating and power plant and warehouse circle. The track also connects with the Fairbanks industrial spur. The Alaska Railroad provides year-round passenger, freight, and vehicle service between Anchorage and Fairbanks. Most north-bound freight arrives by sea at the ports of Anchorage or Whittier for transfer to the railroad. The Alaska Railroad also provides a connection to Seward, the nearest port with intermodal capability.

Wainwright Army Airfield and Eielson AFB, about 17 miles south of Fort Wainwright, can support any type of military aircraft including Galaxy C5s. In addition, Allen Army Airfield at Fort Greely can support C5/C141 aircraft in the winter, and C130 and C-117 II aircraft at all other times.

Fairbanks International Airport, five miles west of Fort Wainwright, is the nearest commercial airport. It is one of two international airports in Alaska and is served by most U.S. and many international airlines (Nakata Planning Group, 1987).

4-3 Water Supply

As of February 1996, Fort Wainwright had nine main drinking wells, two of which were active (Buildings 3559-1A and 3559-2B). In addition, there are drinking water wells for individual buildings. Water use on Fort Wainwright varies from 1.5 million gallons per day in winter to 2.0-2.5 million gallons per day in summer (Fort Wainwright data).

4-4 Projected Changes in Facilities

Changes in facilities that would affect natural resources will be determined by changes in the military mission. If Fort Wainwright were to be tasked with either mechanized or attack helicopter missions, additional ranges would be needed. Such new missions have not been identified. Facility development that would likely affect natural resources include new ranges, impact and target areas, and buildings in areas that are now undisturbed. All would require completion of appropriate NEPA documentation.

Of these possibilities, only a Platoon Battle Course is planned. This course would require clearing and target emplacement for 150-200 yards on each side of a road. The length of the course has not been determined. Troops would move along the road, dis-

mount when a “threat” appears, and fire at the target. However, it is unlikely that the course will be funded in the next five years.

The draft Range and Training Land Program Development Plan has identified two ranges needed at Fort Wainwright to support the current mission and fulfill training requirements. An MPRC-L (Multi Purpose Range Complex) facility with the appropriate designation is needed to perform CALFEX (Combined Arms Fire and Exchange) operations. A MOUT CTF (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) would replace the existing facility, which was not built to military training standard. A new MOUT facility has been proposed; however, a proposed site has not been identified, and therefore potential impacts cannot be predicted.

